AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 23 and ending on page 2, line 3 with the following amended paragraph marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

Recently, however, the integrity of research ~~provide~~ provided by financial institutions has been called into question where the financial institutions with research departments either have, or hope to, achieve banking relationships with companies covered by their research departments. Presently, regulatory, governmental, legislative and media investigators, class action attorneys and the public are questioning whether analyst reporting may have been unduly influenced by business or banking relationships.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 11 and ending on page 2, line 16 with the following amended paragraph marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

Accordingly, what is needed is a method and system ~~for~~ in which a consensus earnings estimate can be provided in such a way to identify and aggregate earnings per share estimates provided by financial institutions with existing or proposed banking or financial relationships with covered companies and those earning per share estimates provided by financial institutions or researchers who do not. Consensus estimates can then be provided in a meaningful manner devoid of any real or imagined influence arising from such relationships.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 4 and ending on page 5, line 12 with the following amended paragraph marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

Referring now to Fig. 2, a network diagram illustrating some embodiments of the present invention is shown 200. An automated Earnings Reporting ~~server~~ system 200 can include a computerized Earnings Reporting server 203 accessible via a distributed network 201 such as the Internet, or a private network. An automated RMC system 202 can include a computerized RMC system also accessible via the distributed network 201. A user[[,]] can use an access ~~devise~~

device 206-207, such as a computerized system or wireless handheld device to receive, input, transmit or view information processed in the Earnings Reporting server 203, RMC system 202, a peer access device, or other network device. A protocol, such as, for example, the transmission control protocol internet protocol (TCP/1P) can be utilized to provide consistency and reliability.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 26 and ending on page 7, line 5 with the following amended paragraph marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

At 313 a consensus earnings estimate can be generated that excludes estimates from entities with a business relationship, and in some embodiments, as a material business relationship or other predetermined threshold of business, with a company concerned. At 314, in some embodiments, an indication can be made to identify those entities that have been excluded from a related business earnings estimate consensus. For example, in order to be excluded, an entity may need to be involved with a threshold amount of business, or over a threshold amount of time. At 315, embodiments can also include an indication of a particular business relationship.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 6 and ending on page 7, line 12 with the following amended paragraph marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

At 316, a ~~suggest~~ suggested action can be generated based upon the earnings estimates and the aggregated data indicating business relationships. A suggested action can include, for example: an indication to buy or sell a security of a company: a indication to buy or sell a derivative indicating value of a company will increase/decrease within a predetermined period of time, such as for example, within 30 days following issuance of an earnings report or with 90 days of the earnings estimate consensus. In some embodiments, a suggested action may include notifying an appropriate authority.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 13 and ending on page 7, line 19 with the following amended paragraph marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

Embodiments can also include allowing a user to select those entities whose estimates should be excluded from an earnings estimate consensus. Selection can allow additional options relating to the selected entity such as including an estimate from the excluded entity or providing details as to why the entity was excluded. Accordingly, embodiments can include presenting data relating to business relationships between an entity providing an earnings estimate and the company concerned. In some embodiments, ~~The~~ the data can be presented, for example, as a result of a Risk Management Clearinghouse search or query.